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Sen. James Buck
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Frank Mrvan
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Greg Porter, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh
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Rep. Randy Truitt



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 3, 2009
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Dennis Kruse, Chairperson; Sen. Carlin Yoder; Sen. James Buck; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Frank Mrvan; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Greg Porter, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh; Rep. Charles Moseley; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Rep. Randy Truitt.

Members Absent: None.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Following the introduction of Committee members, the Chair read the Committee's charges, then called upon Rep. Sheila Klinker to explain why she had requested that the issue of adult education be further studied after being studied during the 2008 interim.

According to Rep. Klinker, the issue arose because the amount of funding for adult education has remained level over the years, while the number of students and the needs of the students has increased. She reminded the Committee that she had introduced HB

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

1036-2009, concerning the life-long learning incentive, which had passed both the House and the Senate but died in conference committee. In addition, HB 1129-2009 had included adult education funding provisions; while the bill did not pass, some provisions were included in the budget bill. Much of the debate concerning adult education during the 2009 session centered around preferred provider provisions, which would allow private entities to provide adult education with funding from the state rather than only school corporations being providers. Rep. Klinker asked the Committee to assist in finding funding for adult education, perhaps by recommending that additional money be included in the budget bill or by exploring alternate funding sources. She provided examples of instances in which alternate funding streams might be appropriate, such as when students attend adult education instead of alternative programs, or when, as in Frankfort's Learning Network, there is support from Purdue Extension Service as well as community sponsorship.

Carol D'Amico, Office of Adult Education, Indiana Department of Education (DOE), presented information concerning federal and state adult education program requirements, Indiana adult education statistics, and state and federal funding per student for adult education. (Exhibit A) She also stated that the DOE is in the process of proposing the regionalization of adult education services to align them with the Ivy Tech regional campuses, and is working with several state agencies to better coordinate the use of resources for adult education.

Sue Fox, Alternative Education Specialist, DOE, presented information concerning the number of alternative education programs in the state and the number of students being served by the programs. (Exhibit B) She reported that for the 2008-2009 school year, there were 200 programs serving 22,577 students in Indiana in grades 6 through 12. She provided the following information:

- (1) The number of diplomas earned has increased each of the last three years.
- (2) For the last three years participation in alternative education has declined.
- (3) The number of students expelled from alternative education programs declined steadily for females over the last three years but for males it dropped and then rose again last year.
- (4) The number of students dropping out from alternative education programs has declined over time.

Gloria Hubbuch, Coordinator of Adult Basic Education (ABE) for Wayne Township Schools and Legislative Co-Chair for the Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education (IAACE), presented a brief overview of Wayne township's comprehensive district adult education programs. (Exhibit C) She stated that the township serves over 1500 individuals each year, with 82% of those individuals entering the program with less than ninth grade level in either math, reading, or language, or a combination of all three. She also gave a brief summary of the IAACE and its dedication to promoting the education and training of adults throughout the state of Indiana through a newsletter and list serve that updates the field on best practices, services, and happenings throughout the state of Indiana. IAACE also sponsors an annual conference where field professionals build upon their skills and students, teachers, administrators and partnerships are recognized for their achievements. She stated that the IAACE supports the following issues:

- (1) The delivery of adult education services through public schools with licensed teachers and retaining the state dollars for adult education and administration within the DOE.
- (2) The development of regional programming.

John Newport, President, IAACE, presented information concerning the mission of IAACE is to promote adult learning and development by providing leadership in unifying individual adult education practitioners. (Exhibit D) He emphasized the need to equip students with lifelong learning skills to prepare them to be productive and responsible citizens.

Tim Holcomb, Director, Four County Area Vocational Cooperative, presented information concerning the locations of the adult education classes that are offered by the Cooperative along with the types of programs offered, including GED testing, GED preparation, adult secondary credit courses, adult ISTEP remediation, and English as a new language. He also presented information concerning the achievement outcomes, completion levels, and performance measures of the students enrolled in the programs. He stated the primary and secondary goals of the students include: entering employment, retaining employment, obtaining a GED or high school diploma, placement in post secondary education or job training, leaving public assistance, achieving citizenship, increasing involvement in children's education, increasing involvement in children's literacy, voting or registering to vote, and increasing involvement in community activities. (Exhibit E)

Peggy Hinckley, Superintendent, Metropolitan School District of Warren Township, presented information concerning the adult education programs offered in Warren Township and gave her views on the regionalization of adult education services as proposed by DOE. She stated that many students in her district have transportation challenges; therefore, regional campuses may not be a good solution for them. She stated that determining whether regionalization is appropriate should be based on statistics concerning the ability of adult education programs to meet core outcomes. (Exhibit F)

Betsy Delgado, ABE Coordinator, Washington Township, presented information concerning the types of adult education programs offered in Washington Township through collaborating with other institutions and programs to share resources and funding. She defined the adult student population in Washington Township as individuals between the ages of 16 to 100+; grade levels of 0 to 12.9+; various immigrant cultures and races; parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents; and high school dropouts. She stated that during the 2009 summer, Washington Township provided the ABE/GED portion of the Mayor's Youth Works Summer Program and 90% of their students improved one or more grade levels. (Exhibit G)

Dan Tanoos, Superintendent, Vigo County School Corporation, presented information concerning the history of the adult education programs in Vigo County dating back to the 1950's and the current types of programs offered across the county, which include GED classes and testing, adult basic education, adult English as a second language, adult workforce development programs, community education, and an out-of-school youth program. (Exhibit H)

Jeffrey Butts, Ph.D., Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township, presented information concerning the importance of adult basic education programs and the types of programs offered in Wayne Township. (Exhibit I) He stated that the ABE programs in Wayne Township operate within their ABE budget. During the 2008-2009 school year, nearly 1,050 students registered for ABE, GED diploma, and ESL classes through their ABE program.

J.D. Lux, Executive Director, Governmental Affairs, Ivy Tech Community College, testified that Ivy Tech does not deliver adult basic education services but partners with K-12 schools and supplies centers for testing. He also stated that Ivy Tech partners with DOE for education assessment purposes.

Ken Sauer, Indiana Commission For Higher Education (Commission), testified that the Commission would like to have Ivy Tech provide an increased level of remedial education, co-locating ABE programs on Ivy Tech campuses, and the Commission would like to promote coordinated systems of transition from secondary education to post secondary education.

Gail Zeheralis, Indiana State Teachers Association, testified that the \$14,000,000 state appropriation for ABE programs serving 38,000 students equals less than \$400 per student. She did not agree with the ABE program funds being available for entities other than school corporations.

The Chair announced that the next meeting will be held on September 30, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the Senate Chambers of the Indiana State House. The topics to be discussed are after school programs and early school start dates and calendar flexibility.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.